

What's News in Egypt?

USIS-CAIRO "HEADLINE REPORT"

PRESS SECTION, AMERICAN EMBASSY

"What's News" is prepared to give American readers a quick, at-a-glance, objective poll of Egyptian newspaper interest; to show what Egyptian papers are "playing up" and what they are "playing down." Where possible, it cross-sections the press--right, left and center--concentrating on major and most influential papers. Topics are listed in the order of the importance given them by editors...and thus are listed in the order in which they claim the eyes of Egyptian newspaper readers.

Explanation of the poll system appears on reverse of this page.

Papers of
Aug. 21, '48
"Kotla"
"Misri"
"Sawt el Umma"

Subject:

Points:

Papers using:

ARABIC PRESS

PALESTINE -- General situation; action; Security Council faces critical situation after Bernadotte's declaration (K,S); Truce observers accuse Jews and Red Cross apologizes to Arabs (K,S); U.S. warns Jews against truce violations (M); U.S. submarine converted to cruiser on its way to Palestine (K,M); Soviet propaganda campaign against Britain concerning Arab refugee problem (K); Jews challenge U.N. declaring "We will fight any international army that enters Jerusalem" (M); Arabs prepare for decisive battle and Azzam Pasha's note to Bernadotte on refugees (M)...	115	K,M,S.
BERLIN -- Soviets enter Western zone, arrest officers and civilians and chase black marketeers...	25	K,M,S.
MOSCOW TALKS -- Preparation to resume talks in next Kremlin meeting; Split among Western envoys? (K)..	19	K,M,S.
NEW YORK-MOSCOW ESPIONAGE AFFAIR -- U.S. asks Moscow to recall Soviet Consul in New York (K); Note to Moscow's Ambassador in New York (M)...	15	K,M.
LAKE SUCCESS -- Third annual report on U.N. activities	15	K.
LONDON -- Communist Party calls laborers to stop imperialist war in Malay...	9	K,S.
NEW YORK -- Truman protests against Dewey for suggesting return of former Italian colonies to Italy...	8	M.
VIENNA -- Austria does not recognize Danube Convention.	7	S.
NEW DELHI -- India protests against Pakistan for its participation in the fighting in Kashmir...	7	M,S.
WASHINGTON -- Truman charges Un-American Activities Committee of infringing the Bill of Rights (USIS)...	7	S.
LAKE SUCCESS -- Albania protests against Greece...	6	M,S.
EIRUT -- Arab League permanent one...	6	M.

HOW THIS REPORT IS PREPARED...

"What's News" does not translate news stories, nor attempt to reflect the individual point of view of any faction or newspaper. By an objective statistical conversion of "headline bigness," "story placement" and "display" into figures, it attempts to show a general picture of how the newspapers of Egypt rate current news.

To give this picture, every story on the major news pages of a representative group of newspapers in each language is given a "point value," based on story display and position.

These point values are reached as follows:

1. A single-column headline is given an arbitrary value of two points. A two-column headline rates four points. A three-column headline earns six -- etc. The basic point value of a story is set at twice the width of its headline.
2. Three points are added to the value of all stories published on "Page One"... and an additional two points are added to each story published in the top third of Page One. Thus an eight-column "banner" headline on Page One rates sixteen points, plus three points, plus two points -- 21 points.
3. After all stories in the newspapers covered are evaluated in this manner, the total score for each item of news (regardless of what phase of the story the individual newspaper "plays up") is added, for the entire cross-sectioned group of newspapers. By choosing papers right, center and left, partisan considerations in giving prominence to news are "balanced out". Thus, if the Wafd gives a story banner headlines and the Administration omits, the score for this story, even though it is bannered in a Wafd paper, will be no more than the score for a story given four-column headlines in both Administration and Opposition newspapers.
4. The identical system is used in evaluating the Arabic and French press, except that the Arabic report, because of the Egyptian custom of bulking international news on Page One, and major local news on Page 2, scans both these pages. The French analysis covers "Page One". The English Press is not evaluated because only a single newspaper appears mornings, another afternoons, and American readers can see immediately the value accorded specific items by the "entire" morning and evening English Press.
5. "Editorial Report" simply lists the subjects of major editorials (as opposed to news items) in the press, by newspapers, for the convenience of those seeking comment on a specific subject.

WHY THIS REPORT IS PREPARED...

USIS has "evaluated" the news in less formal fashion for some time, in order to guide its work. No "Information Service" can operate into a void; it must know what subjects are of most vital interest to the papers it services.

Because it has seemed probable that other Embassy officials and Americans, unable to read the Arabic and French press daily for themselves, would find a "shorthand report" of this sort valuable as a barometer of local press (and thus, to a degree, public) interest, the above means was devised to pass along the daily USIS look at the news.

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Subject:	Points:	Papers using:
HYDERABAD -- Syria to present Hyderabad's case to Security Council, supporting it against India...	5	S.
EGYPT to take strict measures against foreign correspondents who send their papers false news to defame Egyptian and Arab reputation...	4	M.
SECURITY COUNCIL refuses Yugoslav demand to consider the agreements between U.S. and British zones in Austria and Italy invalid...	4	K.
COMINFORM resumes campaigns against Tito after assassination of General Jovanovic...	4	K.
LAKE SUCCESS -- UNSCOB charges Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia of threatening world peace...	4	M.
WASHINGTON -- Truman's Special Assistant submits resignation...	2	S.
SOKOLOVSKY to go back to Berlin...	2	M.

FRENCH PRESS

August 21, 1948 papers: "Journal d'Egypte," "Progres Egyptien."

PALESTINE -- Action in Jerusalem; Arab Legion will replace Arab irregulars in Jerusalem; Relief to Arab refugees from Holland, Switzerland, India and Saudi Arabia (P); Dr. Soliman Azmi Pasha's statement on refugee problem (J)...	34	J,P.
MOSCOW TALKS -- Western envoys did not go to Kremlin last night; Split between three Western powers?..30		J,P.
BERLIN -- New Soviet violations in Anglo-American sector; Soviets arrest 2,500 black market people and 600 officers and civilians; General Clay has not sent ultimatum to General Koehnig (P)...	26	J,P.
ESPIONAGE AFFAIR -- Washington asks Moscow to recall Soviet Consul in New York...	25	J,P.
GREECE -- Important military conference...	21	P.
STOCKHOLM -- Bernadotte president of Red Cross 17th Conference...	10	J,P.
FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES -- Foreign Ministers discussions to end next week...	10	J,P.
EGYPT to raise Libyan problem at U.N. General Assembly...	9	P.
STALIN prepares campaign against Tito...	7	P.
MALAY -- An Englishman killed by rebels...	6	J.

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Subject:	Points:	Papers using:
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EDITORIALS

FRENCH PRESS:

"Arab Countries' Withdrawal from U.N. Will Hurt Their Cause" -- "Journal d'Egypte."

"Press Button" War -- Will it Become a Myth? -- "Progres."

ARABIC PRESS:

The Position of the International Mediator -- (on his report to Security Council) -- "Misri."

Tuberculosis -- (on its treatment in Egypt) -- "Misri."

The Tragedy of Arab Refugees -- "Sawt el Umma."

On Politics -- "Sawt el Umma."

The Government's Responsibility Concerning the Decrease of Cotton Price -- "Sawt el Umma."
